

**Re** : Preliminary Amendment  
**Appl. No.** : 10/696,952  
**Filed** : October 30, 2003

## **II. REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 are currently pending. By the above amendments, Applicants amended Claims 1-7 and 10; and added new Claims 11-20 to clarify, further define and/or broaden the claimed invention, and expedite receiving a Notice of Allowance. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(f), no new matter is introduced by these amendments or new claims.

Applicant submits that Claims 1 to 20 are in condition for allowance for immediate examination. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the application be promptly examined.

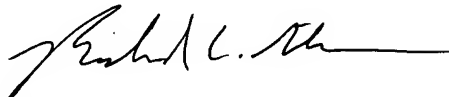
If the Examiner has any questions about this Preliminary Amendment or any other matter, please contact the undersigned attorney of record by telephone so that these remaining issues may be timely resolved.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3178.

Dated this 3 day of March, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,



RICHARD C. GILMORE  
Registration No. 37,335  
Attorney of Record

**Customer No. 22,913**

WORKMAN, NYDEGGER  
1000 Eagle Gate Tower  
60 East South Temple  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111  
Telephone: (801) 533-9800  
Facsimile: (801) 328-1707  
E-mail: [rgilmore@wnpatent.com](mailto:rgilmore@wnpatent.com)

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